What is claimed is:

1. An image delivery system for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) to a terminal communicably connected to said system through a communications network, said system comprising:

(a) image storage means for storing a master moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the master file), containing individual moving visual images of a plurality of users and previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously;

(b) link information management means for storing link information linking a plurality of parts of said master file, which is stored in said image storage means, with the respective users; and

(c) image delivery control means, responsive to the receipt of an object-file delivery request of one individual user from said terminal, for reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part said one individual user appears, from said storage means, and delivering the read-out part of said master file to said terminal through the communications network as the object file.

2. An image delivery system according to claim 1, further comprising (d) image editing control means,

responsive to the receipt of an object-file editing and delivery request of one individual user from said terminal, for reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part said one individual user appears, based on said link information, from said storage means, editing the read-out part of said master file, and delivering the resulting part of said master file to said terminal as the edited object file.

3. An image delivery system according to claim 2, further comprising (e) erasing control means for erasing the corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file stored in said image storage means, in which part said one individual user appears, after the edited object file has been delivered to said terminal.

4. An image delivery system according to claim 1, wherein said image delivery control means controls an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

5. An image delivery system according to claim 2, wherein said image delivery control means controls an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

6. An image delivery system according to claim 3, wherein said image delivery control means controls an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

7. An image delivery method for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a delivery source to a terminal communicably connected to the delivery source through a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing both a master moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the master file), which contains individual moving visual images of a plurality of users and was previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously, and link information linking a plurality of parts of said master file with the respective users, into a storage device, which is a component of the delivery source or an external element communicably connected with the delivery source; and

at the delivery source

(b) upon receipt of an object-file delivery request of one individual user from said terminal, reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part said one individual user appears, from the storage device, and delivering the read-out part of

said master file to said terminal through the communications network as the object file.

8. An image delivery method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

at the delivery source

(c) upon receipt of an object-file editing request of one individual user from said terminal, reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part said one individual user appears, from the storage device based on said link information, and editing the read-out part of said master file; and

(d) delivering the resulting part of said master file to said terminal as the edited object file.

9. An image delivery method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of: at the delivery source (e) erasing the corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file stored in said image storage means, in which part said one individual user appears, after the edited object file has been delivered to said terminal in said delivering step (d).

10. An image delivery method according to claim 7, wherein in said reading and delivering step (b), an image delivering rate is controlled in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition

of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

11. An image delivery method according to claim 8, wherein in each of said reading and delivering step (b) and said edited object file delivering step (d), an image delivering rate is controlled in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

12. An image delivery method according to claim 9, wherein in each of said reading and delivering step (b) and said edited object file delivering step (d), an image delivering rate is controlled in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

13. An image delivery method for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a server to a client communicably connected to the server through a communications network, said method comprising the steps:

at the server

(a) rendering the client to display, on a display screen of the client, a message asking a user to input

user identification information on the client;

(b) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, a title or titles of one or more master moving-visual-image files (each hereinafter called the master file) linked with the last-named user identified by the input user identification information, each master file containing individual moving visual images of a plurality of users including said last-named user and being previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously and stored in a storage device, which is a component of the server or an external element communicably connected with the server; and

(c) upon receipt of an object-file delivery request, which designates the title of a particular one of the plural master files, of said last-named user from the client, (c1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said particular one master file, in which part said last-named user appears, from the storage device based on both the designated title of said particular one master file and time codes representing a location or a set of locations of said corresponding part of said particular one master file and stored in the storage device, and (c2) rendering the client to display the read-out part of said particular one master file on the display screen of the client as the object file.

14. An image delivery method for delivering an

object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a server to a client communicably connected to the server through a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

at the server

(a) rendering the client to display, on a display screen of the client, a message asking a user to input user identification information on the client;

(b) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, (i) a title or titles of one or more master moving-visual-image files (each hereinafter called the master file) linked with the last-named user identified by the input user identification information, each master file containing individual moving visual images of a plurality of users including said last-named user and being previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously, each said master file being composed of a plurality of parts in which the plural users respectively appear and being stored in a storage device, which is a component of the server or an external element communicably connected with the server, and (ii) a plurality of predetermined editing ways for designation and selection by said last-named user;

(c) upon receipt of an object-file editing and delivery request, which designates the title of a particular one of the plural master files and selects a desired one of the plural predetermined editing ways, of

said last-named user from the client, (c1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said particular one master file, in which part said last-named user appears, from the storage device based on both the designated title of said particular one master file and time codes representing a location or a set of locations of said corresponding part of said particular one master file, (c2) editing the read-out corresponding part of said particular one master file in the selected editing way, and (c3) rendering the client to display the resulting part of said particular one master file on the display screen of the client as the edited object file.

15. An image delivery method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

at the server

(d) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, a message asking the user if the resulting moving visual image of the edited object file is approved by the user; and

(e) upon receipt of the approval of the edited object file from the client, downloading the edited object file to the client.

16. A recording medium in which an image delivery program for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a delivery source

to a terminal communicably connected to the delivery source through a communications network is recorded, wherein said program instructs a computer at the delivery source to execute the steps of:

(a) storing both (i) a master moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the master file), which contains moving visual images of a plurality of users and was previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously, into a storage device, which is a component of the delivery source or an external element communicably connected with the delivery source, said master file being composed of a plurality of parts in which the respective users appear, and (ii) link information linking the plural parts with the respective users; and

(b) upon receipt of an object-file delivery request of a user from said terminal, (b1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part the last-named user appears, from the storage device based on said link information stored in the storage device, and (b2) delivering the read-out corresponding one part of said master file to said terminal as the requested object file.

17. A recording medium according to claim 16, wherein said program instructs the computer at the delivery source to execute the following added steps of:

(c) upon receipt of an object-file editing request

of one individual user from said terminal, (c1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file, in which part said one individual user appears, from the storage device based on said link information, and (c2) editing the read-out part of said master file; and

(d) delivering the resulting part of said master file to said terminal as the edited object file.

18. A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said program instructs the computer at the delivery source to further execute the step of (e) erasing the corresponding one of the plural parts of said master file stored in said image storage means, in which part said one individual user appears, after the edited object file has been delivered to said terminal.

19. A recording medium according to claim 16, wherein said program instructs the computer at the delivery source to control, in said reading and delivering step (b), an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

20. A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said program instructs the computer at the delivery source to control, in each of said reading and delivering

step (b) and said delivering step (d), an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

21. A recording medium according to claim 18, wherein said program instructs the computer at the delivery source to control, in each of said reading and delivering step (b) and said delivering step (d), an image delivering rate in terms of the number of image frames per second in accordance with a condition of connection of said terminal with the communications network.

22. A recording medium in which an image delivery program for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a server to a client communicably connected to the server through a communications network is recorded, wherein said program instructs a computer at the server to execute the steps of:

(a) rendering the client to display, on a display screen of the client, a message asking a user to input user identification information on the client;

(b) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, a title or titles of one or more moving-visual-image master files (each hereinafter called the master file) linked with the last-named user identified

by the input user identification information for designation by said last-named user, each master file containing individual moving visual images of a plurality of users including said last-named user and previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously and stored in a storage device, which is a component of the server or an external element communicably connected with the server; and

(c) upon receipt of an object-file delivery request, which designates the title of a desired one master file, of said last-named user from the client, each said master file being composed of a plurality of parts in which the respective users appear, (c1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said desired one master file, in which part said last-named user identified by said input user identification information appears, from the storage device based on both the designated title of said particular one master file and time codes representing a location or a set of locations of said corresponding one part of said desired one master file, and (c2) rendering the client to display the read-out corresponding part of said desired master file on the display screen of the client as the object file.

23. A recording medium in which an image delivery program for delivering an object moving-visual-image file (hereinafter called the object file) from a server to a

client is recorded, wherein said program instructs a computer at the server to execute the steps of:

(a) rendering the client to display, on a display screen of the client, a message asking a user to input user identification information on the client;

(b) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, (i) a title or titles of one or more master files (each hereinafter called the master file) linked with the last-named user identified by the input user identification information, each master file containing individual moving visual images of a plurality of users including said last-named user and being previously obtained by videoing the plural users substantially continuously and stored in a storage device, which is a component of the server or an external element communicably connected with the server, and (ii) a plurality of predetermined editing ways for designation and selection by said last-named user; and

(c) upon receipt of an object-file editing and delivery request, which designates the title of a particular one master file and selects a desired one of the plural predetermined editing ways, of said last-named user from the client, (c1) reading out a corresponding one of the plural parts of said particular one master file, in which part said last-named user appears, from the storage device based on the designated title of said particular one master file and time codes representing a location

or a set of locations of said corresponding one part in which said last-named user appears, (c2) editing the read-out part of said particular one master file in the selected predetermined editing way, and (c3) rendering the client to display the resulting part of said particular one master file object on the display screen of the client as the edited object file.

24. A recording medium according to claim 23, wherein said program instructs the computer at the server to execute the following added steps of:

(d) rendering the client to display, on the display screen of the client, a message asking the user if the edited object file is approved by the user; and

(e) upon receipt of the approval of the edited object file from the client, downloading the requested edited object file to the client.